

TRIVIA STUDY

THE EFFECT OF GENDER ON CONFIDENCE & PERFORMANCE

GENDER IMBALANCE IN TRIVIA

**199 MEN AND 91 WOMEN
HAVE COMPETED IN JEOPARDY!'S
TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS**

GENDER IMBALANCE IN TRIVIA

**15 WOMEN AND 42 MEN
HAVE GONE ON TO WIN THE
TOURNAMENT**

BACKGROUND

- General knowledge is used as a proxy for intelligence
- Why do men outnumber and outperform women/non-men in academic spaces and general knowledge competitions?
- Gender differences in confidence may lead to a leaky pipeline in trivia environments

HYPOTHESES

- Women will be less confident & less likely to overestimate skill compared to men.
 - Women will report lower trivia expertise and confidence ratings
 - Men will be more confident in wrong answers
 - Women will be less confident in correct answers

What epic poem is Edmund Spenser's most famous work?

faerie queene

How confident are you in the answer you just gave?

Not at all confident



Extremely confident

Next

How much trivia would you say you know?

**Much
less
than
the
average
person**



**Much
more
than
the
average
person**

Next

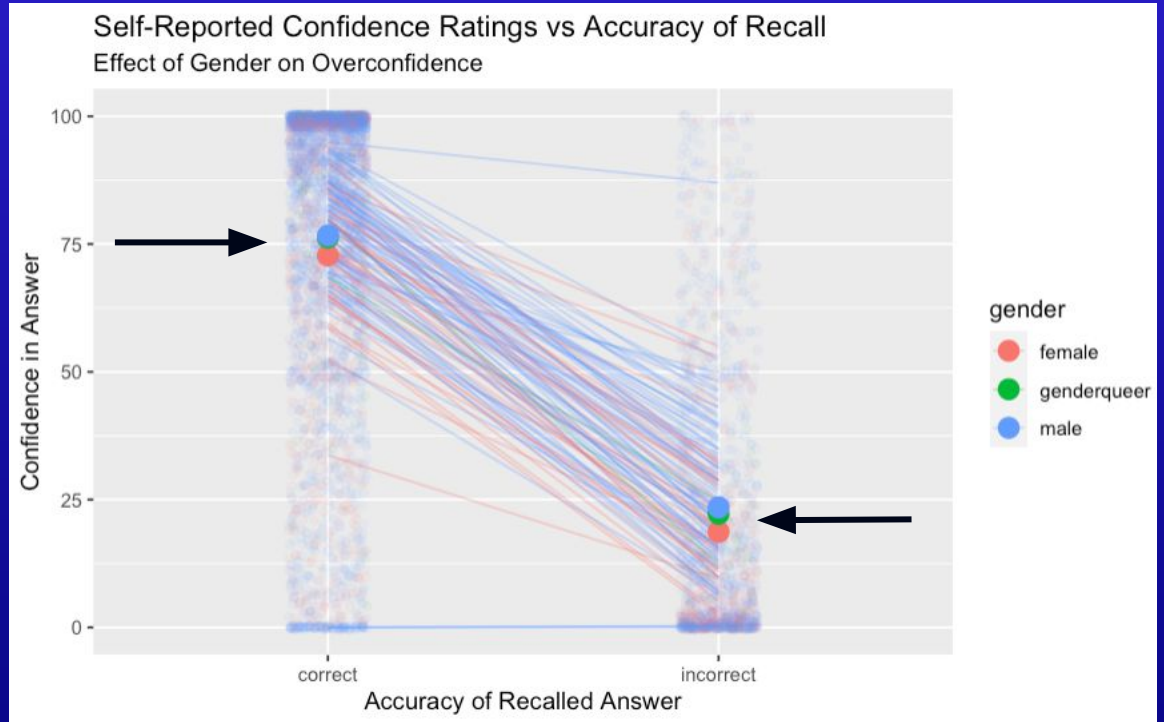
RESULTS

- for each 10 point inc in expertise rating by a woman, they score **0.065481** better * $p < 2e-16$
- matched in expertise ratings, a man will score **0.0261387** better * $p \approx 5.4e-09$
- women are more confident in their trivia expertise → compensatory mechanisms or sampling bias



RESULTS

- For incorrect answers, men are 4.3825 points more confident
- For correct answers, men are 3.7126 points more confident
- adjusting for the fact that people should be less confident when wrong, men are still more confident overall in their answers



CONCLUSIONS

- Women are more overconfident in their trivia abilities than men
- Men are more confident in their answers, regardless of accuracy

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Recruit equal numbers of men, women, and genderqueer Ps for both high and low trivia ability
- Tease apart the effect of higher scores from the effect of gender

CREDITS

Monica Thieu - mentor

Mariam Aly - PI

Ellie Hansen - peer mentor

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Anna Vannucci - SIPPS

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QUESTIONS?

QUESTIONS?